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Provisional summary record of the second part* of the 27th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 1 October 2009, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Urbina ..... (Costa Rica)

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General debate (*continued*)

* The summary record of the first part of the meeting held on Thursday, 1 October 2009, at 10 a.m., appears as document S/AC.44/SR.27.

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The meeting was reconvened at 3.10 p.m.

General debate (*continued*)

1. **Ms. Holopainen** (Observer for Finland) said that the framework of multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation treaties were the cornerstone of international security. The full implementation of those treaties would be a remarkable step towards a safer world. She welcomed the various initiatives that had been taken to enhance international cooperation in the field of counter-proliferation, such as the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT) and the Proliferation Security Initiative and also underlined the importance of international export control arrangements.

2. Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) had an unquestionable role to play in the efforts to counter proliferation. Full implementation of the resolution would be a demanding task and would require a constant review of national practices and coordination between national authorities. There was a clear need to raise awareness about the risks of proliferation and about the provisions of the resolution, and not just among State authorities but also among academics and in industry and the transportation sector.

3. It was essential to provide assistance in cases where the necessary resources were not available. Finland remained fully committed to the resolution and would continue to work towards full compliance. It would also continue to provide assistance to other States in a number of ways, including by training experts from developing countries in the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

4. She drew attention to the role of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in complementing the work done within the United Nations framework and noted that non-governmental organizations could also play a valuable role in promoting the resolution.

5. **Mr. Pirogov** (World Health Organization (WHO)) said that the International Health Regulations (IHR) were the legal and operational framework for WHO's activities in preventing the international spread of disease and dealing with health hazards. WHO was undertaking a number of activities to strengthen preparedness for public health emergencies of international concern. Internally, it had created a team to address the specific overlaps between security and public health.

6. At the international level, there was a 24/7 alert and response system to detect international public health events. WHO was strengthening its stockpiles for disease-specific risks, such as smallpox, as well as exploring the possibility of a new global stockpile for radio-nuclear and chemical emergencies. It was exchanging information with other international and regional organizations, both through formal mechanisms and through ad hoc technical interactions. As regards the latter, it was working with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) to ensure that information about the public health impact of incidents was reflected in their training materials. Most recently, it had started working with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) to develop the modalities of the Secretary-General's mechanism for investigating alleged use of chemical, biological or toxin weapons.

7. At the national level, WHO was committed to a programme of national capacity-building for detection of — and response to — public health emergencies of international concern. It had prepared guidance to help countries assess their readiness to deal with incidents involving chemical, biological or radiological materials and was providing guidelines on how to strengthen systems for dealing with deliberate contamination of food. It was disseminating standards and training to encourage the safe use and storage of biological materials in laboratories so as to minimize the risk of such materials being diverted for nefarious use and was collaborating with the European Union to strengthen laboratory security against biological risks. WHO was also a participant in the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF).

8. **Mr. Boucher** (Observer for the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)), referring to the work being done by INTERPOL to support implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), said that communication and cooperation were vital to law enforcement, particularly at the international level. To that end, INTERPOL had developed a secure global police communications system called I-24/7, which allowed member countries to share sensitive policing information and to access INTERPOL's global databases. The latter included one relating to stolen and lost travel documents and one put together by the Fusion Task Force, which had been created in response to the alarming rise in international terrorism. Its

database contained information about thousands of people linked to terrorism.

9. INTERPOL's bioterrorism prevention programme had been created in 2004 to raise awareness about the threat of bioterrorism and to provide specific training and guidelines on how to prevent and respond to that threat. Its Bioterrorism Incident Preplanning and Response Guide was available to law enforcement agencies on the restricted INTERPOL website and e-learning modules were being developed on the subject.

10. Project Geiger, which had been launched with support from the United States Department of Energy, focused on the analysis of information on illicit trafficking in nuclear and other radioactive materials. Its objective was to enhance the quality of data used to devise ways of responding to threats involving such materials. INTERPOL was also participating in the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism and was working with UNODA on workshops to build law enforcement capacity. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy called upon INTERPOL to work with UNODA to build compatible databases on biocrimes and biological incidents, in order to develop better tools for preventing and responding to threats from biological weapons of mass destruction.

11. **Ms. Medina-Carrasco** (Observer for the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) expressed strong support for the fight against terrorism but added that the fight should be a comprehensive one. Whereas the international community was making great efforts to ensure that weapons of mass destruction did not fall into the wrong hands, other important issues, such as the arrest of terrorist suspects, received much less attention. For example, her Government was still waiting for the noted terrorist Luis Posada Carriles to be extradited so that he could face the charges against him.

12. Recalling that Latin America had been the second region of the world to be declared nuclear-weapon-free — which clearly demonstrated its rejection of such weapons — she said that it was significant that the region's neighbour had the unenviable record of having been the only State to have used nuclear weapons against innocent people.

13. The Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela had declared the country to be a territory of peace; accordingly, her Government rejected anything that could endanger that peace. The presence of foreign military bases in Latin America and elsewhere posed a serious threat to peace and her Government rejected their presence as vigorously as it rejected the possession, production or transfer of weapons of mass destruction.

14. Venezuela was party to the various international instruments relating to the prohibition of various weapons of mass destruction. However, given that the mere existence of such weapons encouraged proliferation and thus presented a threat to world peace, she said that the permanent members of the Security Council should make a serious effort to develop a binding instrument on complete nuclear disarmament and should voluntarily destroy their respective arsenals.

15. Since its last report to the Committee, Venezuela had adopted a number of laws, including one on organized crime which established penalties, inter alia, for trafficking in nuclear or radioactive materials and use of chemical or bacteriological substances. However, it was not enough just to look at what non-nuclear-weapon States were doing to stop proliferation. Nuclear-weapon States must also provide detailed information to the Committee. The Committee should distinguish between nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear-weapon States with regard to the implementation of paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of the resolution.

The meeting rose at 3.40 p.m.